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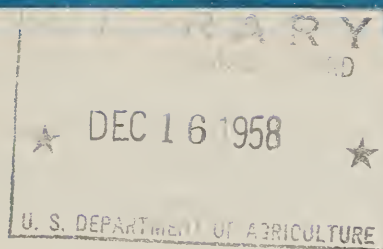
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Farm and Home Development

Highlights



No. 2 -- March, 1958



On the Move: Perhaps it's because of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years experience under our belts, perhaps because of the great need for this type of extension work, or perhaps results are stimulating everyone to greater effort--at any rate, there's a healthy resurgence of Farm and Home Development interest and activity across the country. Evidence can be seen in many quarters. State Extension Directors are asking what can be done to strengthen this effort. ECOP is lending active support and guidance. Problems of Farm and Home Development work are being discussed at the current regional directors' meetings. Our own staff has increased interest in making its fullest contribution.

All of this is a healthy sign. We hope this newsletter stimulates your State's FHD efforts and offers ideas of benefit. Please tell us of experiences in your State that we may share with others.

Iowa Summary Shows Real Progress: The recent (January 1958) summary of Iowa Farm and Home Development progress is a stirring report, surging with evidence that FHD is a powerful extension method. One is mindful that the 856 Iowa families receiving FHD assistance last year made many important changes and that they made them in the soundest way possible. They defined their goals - clarified problems - weighed alternatives - chose solutions.

The report covers only 22 questions but each carries a punch. Of the 856 families, 328 are being reached by extension for the first time, 44 left the farm and 87 shifted to part-time off-farm employment; 39 purchased and 105 rented additional land to provide more adequate units; 258 intensified existing enterprises. In 559 families both husband and wife increased their understanding of the sources of their income and how money is used; 318 took advantage of training in better buymanship, and work simplification occurred in 200 homes; 199 couples assumed leadership roles.

There is evidence of action--lots of it--in each category of questions. Nine case histories of family achievement provide added proof of progress.

Speaking of this summary, Assistant Director Soultz says "This information gives us the best measure of progress in our FHD work we have had." And "well it might" we would like to add after reading it.

Federal Extension Service -- U. S. Department of Agriculture

Training Opportunities: Recognizing that continued training is essential to effective FHD work, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Washington, as well as 4 regional summer schools, are offering FHD or related courses this year. Oregon intends to involve one man and one woman agent from each county staff in a planning course considered preparatory to FHD work. Georgia is planning a 3-week seminar for agents on how to work intensively with farm families.

Regional Summer Schools offering FHD courses are: Cornell, July 7-25; Wisconsin, June 9-28; Prairie View, June 9-27. Colorado is offering a course on Family Financial Management, June 16-July 3.

Three members of our staff--Jack Claar, J. R. Paulling, and Starley Hunter--will teach or help to teach four of these courses.

Texas Holds Management Workshop: The Texas Extension Service held a highly successful, weeklong management workshop for more than 100 members of the State staff earlier this month. Basic subject matter was presented each morning followed by group discussion in the afternoon. Participants were divided into 7 groups for afternoon sessions. At the close of each work session, reporters presented committee deliberations to the entire group. Jack Claar and Starley Hunter of our staff helped conduct the workshop.

FES Task Force Plans: As a means of stepping up training and leadership in Farm and Home Development, the FES task force has made plans for:

1. field training in FHD for FES staff members who didn't participate in the North Carolina, Kentucky or Pennsylvania work sessions.
2. sending teams of task force members to a few States this spring where, together with State workers, they will study and appraise patterns of operation to date in order to identify successful procedures that may be shared with other States.
3. expanding the preparation of coordinated subject matter materials, such as the circular "Considerations Regarding the Family Food Supply," now being printed, for use by State and county workers.
4. involving to the fullest extent practical all FES staff members in FHD work.

Problems and Progress: The status of Farm and Home Development work was discussed by members of ECOP during its January meeting. Their considerations were based on that part of the Scope Report that states: "A major educational challenge to the Extension Service is to provide these educational experiences for farm families which will enable them to (1) appraise all their resources, (2) identify problems to overcome, (3) analyze different ways to meet these problems. (4) weigh alternatives in terms of possible results, (5) understand the technological, credit and other aids they may use, (6) choose and follow the most promising courses of action. This is the course of action being intensified in the 'unit approach' to farm families' problems. Excellent progress is being made in these more intensive educational efforts, but even more effort on a continuing basis is mandatory."

The ECOP discussions highlighted these major points:

1. There is a wide variation in understanding of the concept and objectives of FHD among extension workers. Understanding and action often are not in keeping with a State's own formal statements of concepts and objectives.
2. Administrative leadership in FHD work varies greatly. In many States supervisors are not given enough leadership responsibility for FHD work and are not taking responsibility for assuring adequate training and State staff support for agents.
3. FHD training work is increasing, but many States still do not have adequate training programs for either State or county workers. Some specialists are doing a good training job with agents. But often the specialist staff is not making its maximum contribution to agent training because of lack of training on its part.
4. FHD work is too often considered the responsibility of one or two State staff members, leading other specialists to conclude that "It's their program." At the county level, 80 to 90 percent of FHD work is done by men agents.
5. Analysis of the first 12 State reports on FHD work received by the FES this year shows a 32 percent increase in 1957 in the number of families worked with as compared to 1956. Two-thirds of these were new families, one-third were low-income families, and one-third were part-time farmers.

What They're Saying: We think these quotes are worth passing on to you:

"In 1958 and the years ahead farmers must increase their efficiency and cut their costs if they are to survive. The most helpful single thing for the majority of farm families in Missouri would be to have a sound Balanced Farming plan. You (agents) are better equipped to help them with this than anyone in the world. It is a tremendous challenge and wonderful opportunity, if we can measure up to it."
--Director J. W. Burch, Mo.

"I am more than ever convinced that in the Farm and Home Development approach extension has a tool for getting the job done and getting recognition for it. We should not fumble on it. I only wish I had more years to devote to it." --George Baumeister, Special Project Leader, Wis.

"Farm and Home Development is potentially one of the best methods of adult education available to the Agricultural Extension Service in carrying out many of its educational programs." --Director C. A. Svinth, Wash.

Is This Extension's Business?: A survey of young farm families in Kentucky, reports Director Nesius, reveals these thought-provoking facts:

1. "Only one-third belong to any kind of organization or take part in community activities.

2. "One-fourth received information from County Extension Agents; only 7 percent understood the Extension program; two-thirds depended chiefly on magazines as their chief source of information.
3. "While these young families have 'dreams' only one-third had any plans for making their dreams come true. Plans were vague, consideration is not given to all opportunities and limitations.
4. "Upon having Extension explained to them, three-fourths said they definitely wanted help in making and carrying out farm and home plans.
5. "Problems of these young families are similar to those of past generations but their scope, along with economic conditions, make them more difficult to solve.
6. "There are more young families in each county than generally realized."

What would a survey show for your State? What responsibilities has Extension to these and other families with similar problems? What opportunities does Farm and Home Development offer such families?

Teamwork: Evelyn Spindler and James E. Crosby of our staff report an excellent team approach in Arkansas in helping families solve family food supply problems. The two recently returned from Arkansas where they worked with both specialists and district Farm and Home Development agents on methods of supplying family food needs. They report that the men specialists and district agents recognized the need for factual information on this subject and asked many questions on nutrition and methods of stretching the food dollar.

Indiana Better Farming and Better Living Planning Guide: Extension agents in Indiana are experiencing success with a planning guide designed to help families define their goals and make specific plans for achieving them. The guides are serving as the basis for agents' farm visits and as a means for measuring progress of families cooperating in Better Farming and Better Living work.

FHD Influences Specialists Programs: Evidence of the positive influence FHD is having on specialists programs comes from Alice Linn, FES clothing specialist. She reports FHD work is having a definite effect on county program planning and in the type of subject matter help requested of home agents and clothing specialists. Requests for assistance on wardrobe planning and clothing purchases have been especially stimulated by FHD work. Miss Linn says many agents report that FHD is unsurpassed as a method of providing the type of help families need in this regard. She adds that some agents are using FHD work materials in training meetings for clothing leaders.

Enclosure: Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is a statement on effective counseling that we think you will find quite helpful. It was prepared by J. C. Jernigan, Dean of the Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville, Texas, and presented at a Texas extension workers' conference.